

WHAT I CLAIM IS:

1. A system for providing a subscription code service comprising:
 - (a) a lookup table having one telephone number associated with one subscription code, wherein the subscription code comprises at least one character and at least three digits; and
 - (b) a routing device in communication with the lookup table, wherein when a call initiated by a caller using the subscription code is received by the routing device, the routing device retrieves the telephone number from the lookup table, and wherein the routing device terminates the call to a subscriber of the subscription code according to the telephone number.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one character is one of an asterisk and a pound sign.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the total number of digits does not exceed five.
4. The system of claim 1, wherein the digits represents a catchy word.
5. The system of claim 4, wherein the catchy word characterizes the subscriber.
6. The system of claim 1, wherein the routing device is a local switch.
7. A system for providing a subscription code service comprising the steps of:

means for associating one or more subscription codes with one or more telephone numbers, wherein each of the subscription codes comprises a character and three or more digits;

means for detecting a call initiated by a caller using a subscription code;

means for retrieving a telephone number associated with the subscription code;

and

means for terminating the call to a subscriber of the subscription code using the telephone number.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the associating means comprises a database.
9. The system of claim 7, wherein the detecting means uses a local switch.
10. The system of claim 7, wherein the retrieving means uses subscriber rules.
11. The system of claim 7, wherein the terminating means uses a local switch.
12. The system of claim 7, wherein the retrieving means and the terminating means are one dedicated switch.
13. A system for providing a subscription code service comprising:
 - (a) a service switching point adapted to detect a call initiated by a caller using a subscription code, wherein the subscription code comprises at least one character and at least three or more digits;
 - (b) a service control point in communication with the service switching point, wherein the service control point is adapted to return a message to the service switching point in response to a query containing the subscription code from the service switching point; and
 - (c) a database accessible to the service control point, wherein the database comprises the subscription code and at least one subscriber telephone number associated with the subscription code,
wherein when the call is received by the service switching point, the service switching point launches the query containing the subscription code to the service control point,
wherein the service control point retrieves from the database one of the at least one subscriber telephone number,

wherein the service control point returns a message containing the subscriber telephone number to the service switching point, and

wherein the service switching point terminates the call using the subscriber telephone number.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein a total number of the at least one subscriber telephone number does not exceed five.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein the database contains subscriber rules related to which of the at least one subscriber telephone number should be retrieved by the service control point.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the subscriber rules are based at least in part upon an originating region within which the caller is located.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the originating region is determined based on one or more of an originating point code, an NPA-NXX, and a zip code associated with the caller.

18. The system of claim 15, wherein the subscriber rules are based at least in part upon a time at which the call is initiated.

19. The system of claim 15, wherein the subscriber rules involves a solicitation of a choice from the caller.

20. The system of claim 15, wherein the subscriber rules are based in part on a number of subscriber associated with the subscription code.

21. A method for providing subscription code service comprising the steps of:
receiving a call initiated by a caller using a subscription code at a service switching point, wherein the subscription code includes an asterisk and at least three digits;

querying a service control point for instructions to route the call;
retrieving a subscriber telephone number from a database associated with the service control point based at least in part on the subscription code;
returning a message from the service control point to the service switching point, wherein the message includes the subscriber telephone number; and
terminating the call to a subscriber associated with the subscriber telephone number.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the retrieving step is further based at least in part on subscriber rules associated with the subscription code.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the subscriber rules involves one or more conditions related to a place or a time associated with the call.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the place is determined based on one or more of an originating point code, an NPA-NXX, and a zip code associated with the caller.

25. A method for providing subscription code services in a geographical area comprising the steps of:

allocating a plurality of subscription codes for the services;
provisioning a trigger at each of at least one service switching point within the geographical area, within the trigger is adapted to detect calls initiated by callers using one of the subscription codes;
querying a service control point for call routing instructions when a call initiated by a caller using a subscription code is detected at a service switching point;
retrieving a telephone number based at least in part on the subscription code; and
terminating the call using the telephone number.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the retrieving step involves subscriber rules related to a condition under which the caller was initiated.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the condition involves an originating region of the call.

28. The method of claim 26, wherein the condition involves a time at which the call was initiated.

29. The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of soliciting information from the caller to help retrieve the telephone number.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the soliciting step involves playing a prerecorded announcement by the service node.

31. A method for providing subscription code services in a geographical area comprising the steps of:

allocating a plurality of subscription codes for the services;

provisioning a trigger at each of at least one service switching point within the geographical area, within the trigger is adapted to detect calls initiated by callers using one of the subscription codes;

querying a service control point for call routing instructions when a call initiated by a caller using a subscription code is detected at a service switching point;

determining an originating region from which the call was initiated;

retrieving a telephone number based at least in part on the subscription code and the originating region; and

terminating the call using the telephone number.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the originating region is determined based on one or more of an NPA-NXX designation, an originating point code, and a zip code associated with the caller.

33. A method for providing subscription code services in a geographical area comprising the steps of:

allocating a plurality of subscription codes for the services;

provisioning a trigger at each of at least one service switching point within the geographical area, within the trigger is adapted to detect calls initiated by callers using one of the subscription codes;

querying a service control point for call routing instructions when a call initiated by a caller using a subscription code is detected at a service switching point;

determining a condition under which the call was initiated;

retrieving a telephone number based at least in part on the subscription code and the condition; and

terminating the call using the telephone number.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the condition is related to a time at which the call was initiated.

35. The method of claim 33, wherein the condition is related to which day of the week the call was initiated.

36. A method for providing subscription code services in a geographical area comprising the steps of:

allocating a plurality of subscription codes for the services;

provisioning a trigger at each of at least one service switching point within the geographical area, within the trigger is adapted to detect calls initiated by callers using one of the subscription codes;

querying a service control point for call routing instructions when a call initiated by a caller using a subscription code is detected at a service switching point;

presenting to the caller a list of subscribers associated with the subscription code;

receiving one telephone number chosen by the caller; and

terminating the call using the telephone number.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the presenting step involves a prerecorded announcement.

38. The method of claim 36, wherein the presenting and receiving steps are performed by one or both of a service node and the service switching point.